

North of Falcon Policy

Commission Briefing – November 4, 2016



Policy C-3608

Expires December 31, 2016

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Purpose

- Brief FWC on current North of Falcon Policy
- Potential modifications for new policy
- Policy Consideration Process/Schedule
- Seek Commission Guidance

North of Falcon Policy

Department staff will insure that management decisions are consistent with:

- Statutory Authority
- *U.S. v. Washington*
- *U.S. v. Oregon*
- Endangered Species Act
- Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan
- Pacific Salmon Treaty
- PFMIC's Framework Salmon Management Plan
- State/Tribal agreements
- Fish and Wildlife Commission Policies

North of Falcon Policy

Provides guidance to the Department for annual salmon fisheries on:

- Conservation Principles
- Providing Harvest Opportunity
- In-season Management
- Monitoring and Sampling
- Enforcement and Compliance
- Gear and Fishery Conflicts
- Incidental Mortalities
- Communications

North of Falcon Policy

Department will implement consistent with the 21st Century Salmon and Steelhead Initiative

- Science-based, well-documented, transparent, well-communicated and accountable
- Meet or exceed ESA, recovery and conservation goals

Fishery Management

Fishing opportunities:

- Will be provided when they can be directed at healthy wild and hatchery stocks
- Will utilize selective methods and gears to maximize fishing opportunity and minimize impacts on depressed stocks to the fullest extent possible
- From a statewide perspective, will not be exclusively reserved for either sport or commercial users.

Fishery Management

Meaningful recreational fishing opportunities:

- Will be distributed equitably across fishing areas and reflect the diverse interests of fishers, including retention and catch-and-release fisheries

Fishery Management

Sockeye, chum and pink salmon fisheries

- Majority of harvest provided to commercial fisheries for Fraser-origin chum, pink and sockeye and Puget Sound origin chum
- Puget Sound origin pink salmon seasons to provide meaningful opportunities for recreational and commercial fisheries while minimizing gear and other fishery conflicts
- First 200,000 Lake Washington sockeye available for non-treaty harvest provided to recreational fisheries

Fishery Management

Puget Sound Chinook and coho salmon

- Objectives are, in priority order:
 1. Provide meaningful recreational fishing opportunities distributed equitably across fishing areas
 2. Identify and provide opportunities for commercial harvest

Fishery Management

Grays Harbor

Consistent with the Commission's Grays Harbor Policy (POL C-3620)...

Columbia River

Guided by Commission's Policy on Columbia River Salmon Management (POL-C3620), with harvest regimes developed in cooperation with Oregon Fish and Wildlife...

Fishery Management

Willapa Bay

Consistent with the Commission's direction and policies expected no sooner than April 2015...

Pacific Ocean

Consistent with the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Framework Salmon Management Plan...

In-season Management

...will be implemented consistent with pre-season conservation and harvest management objectives, and the fishery intent developed through the North of Falcon process

Monitoring and Sampling

...will be provided to account for species and population impacts of all fisheries

Fishery participants will be required to comply with fishery monitoring...

Enforcement and Compliance

...strategies will be developed and staffing provided to promote compliance

... establish and maintain effective coordination with Tribal enforcement

Gear and Fishery Conflicts

...fisheries shall be structured to minimize gear and other fishery conflicts

... shall be resolved by involving the appropriate sport and commercial representatives in a dispute resolution process managed by Department staff

Incidental Mortalities

...minimize mortalities on non-target species (e.g. rockfish, seabirds, etc.)

...limit seabird mortalities consistent with the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Communications

Make ongoing improvements for effective public involvement during the NOF planning process and fishery implementation

- Include participants as observers during appropriate state/tribal meetings
- Record decisions in writing
- Use a variety of tools to communicate effectively
- Consult with stakeholders prior to making major decisions with the comanagers

Delegation of Authority

The Fish and Wildlife Commission delegates authority to the Director to:

- make harvest agreements with the Northwest Treaty Tribes and other governmental agencies
- Adopt permanent and emergency regulations resulting from those agreements

Potential modifications to Policy

- Add direct reference to Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy (POL-C3622)
- Other?

Policy Process

- November 4, 2016 FWC briefing
 - Seek Commission guidance on modifications
 - Public comment
- December 2016
 - Briefing on revised draft policy based on Commission guidance
 - Additional public comment
- January 2016
 - Commission considers adoption of revised policy

North of Falcon Policy

- Policy C-3608
- Expires December 31, 2016

Questions/Guidance ?